

DISCOURSE

WRITTEN BY *HOS. J. 12*

S^r George Downing

The KING of Great Britain's Envoy
Extraordinary to the States of the United-
Provinces.

VINDICATING

His Royal Master from the Insolencies of a Scandalous Libel, Printed under the Title of [*An Extra out of the Register of the States General of the United Provinces, upon the Memorial of Sir George Downing Envoyée, &c.*] And delivered by the Agent de Hey for such, to several Publick Ministers :

WHEREAS

No such Resolution was ever Communicated to the said Envoyée, nor any Answer at all Returned by Their Lordships to the said Memorial.

LONDON,

Printed by J. M. Anno Domini, 1664.

COLLIERSE

George Downing



WILLIAM

Y. C. 10

George Downing



A

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Written by

Sir George Downing, the King of Great
Britains Envoyée Extraordinary to the
States of the United Provinces, &c.

THE Envoyée Extraordinary of His
most Sacred Majesty of Great Bri-
tain, &c. having lately seen a
certain Paper intituled, [*An Extract*
out of the Register of the Resoluti-
ons of the High and Mighty Lords Estates General
of the United Provinces, upon the Memorial of
Sir George Downing, Envoy Extraordinary from the
King of Great Britain,] did not at all think it fit for
him to take any notice thereof, but to pass it by as
a Pamphlet, (of which sort there come out too
many here every day :) in regard that no such Re-
solution

ſolution had been communicated to *Him* by their *Lordſhips*, nor any one word given him in *Answer* to his ſaid *Memorial*: And he had accordingly paſt it by, without taking any notice thereof, had he not ſince by accident been informed by ſeveral *Publick Miniſters* reſiding here, that the ſaid pretended *Reſolution* had been brought to them by the *Agent de Heyde*; Whereupon he now holds Himſelf obliged to *Complain* in moſt ſerious terms to their *Lordſhips* the *Eſtates General* of the *United Provinces*, of this ſtrange and irregular way of proceeding; That while he is *Reſiding* here on the behalf of the *King* his *Maſter*: Papers, in form of *Answers* to his *Memorials*, ſhould be given to other *Publick Miniſters*, here and *elſewhere*, and ſent all over the *World*, and yet concealed from *Him*; and thereby neither opportunity of being convinced, if any thing of reaſon ſhould have been ſaid therein, nor on the contrary of vindicating the Honour and Juſtice of the *King* his *Maſter* in what he is therein unjuſtly charged and defamed withall.

Suppoſe that he the ſaid *Envoy Extraordinary*, ſhould have proceeded in that manner, and have given the *Memorial* (to which the ſaid Paper is a *Reply*) to all *Publick Miniſters* reſiding here; and have ſent it to all Courts abroad, and ſhould have *Printed*, and expoſed it to the view of the *World*, without giving it to their *Lordſhips*, what would they have thought thereof? and what might have been expected that they would have ſaid to it? Can their *Lordſhips* imagine that this way of acting doth tend any way to the Juſtifying of their *Cauſe*,

as to the working of better impressions concerning the same in the minds of those *Publick Ministers*, or their *Masters*? Or rather, that they must be exceedingly scandalized thereat, as looking more like a *Surprize* of them and their Judgments, then otherwise; and considering that they may to morrow be dealt with in like manner, in relation to any Paper they may give in; and see the Affairs of their Masters traduced and defamed without any opportunity or possibility of clearing the same.

And as to the *Matter* of the said Paper; Is it enough to say in general terms, *That the said Memorial was ill grounded, or abusively informed*, without particularizing at all *how*, or *wherein*; or so much as excepting against any one word thereof, much less disproving the same.

And again; If the things wherewith they are charged therein be *true* (as they both are, and must now be taken by all men to be, since nothing is made out by their Lordships to the contrary) To what purpose is the whole sequel of the said Paper? If it be true (as it is) That the *Royal Master* of the said *Envoy* was no sooner returned to His Kingdoms, but that he was immediately, and from day to day troubled and importuned with a Crowd of Complaints of His Subjects against those of this Country; all which notwithstanding, His Majesty did not grant any one *Letter of Marque*, nor betake himself to any way of force for the obtaining of their reparation and satisfaction; But in stead thereof, for an Everlasting memorial of his
great

great kindness and good will towards this Country, and for the facilitating of the bringing to a Conclusion the late *Treaty* with them, (finding the *Complaints* and *Pretensions* of his Subjects to be so numerous and great,) was pleased after all to suffer very many of them, and those to a vast value, to be utterly mortified and extinguished; and the rest (except the business of the Ships *Bonadventure*, and *Bon-Esperanza*.) after so much money and time had been already expended in the pursuit thereof, and many of them ready for a determination, to be put in a LIST, and proceeded upon anew according to the fifteenth *Article* thereof; no ways doubting, but that all possible speed would have thereupon been used in bringing the matter to an issue, and that for the future better order would have been observed towards His Subjects: But having waited now above 27 months since the *Conclusion* of the said *Treaty*; and in that time their Lordships being continually call'd upon by His Said Majesties *Envoy Extraordinary*, yea by His Majesty himself in several *Audiences* to their *Embassador*; Yet so it is, that those matters are still so far from being ended, that in truth they seem to be now rather further from it then at the day of the *signing* of the said *Treaty*; and on the other side, new injuries daily heaped, and the same designs of the *East* and *West-Indie-Companies* carried on for the utter overthrow of all the *Trade* of His Majesties Subjects in those parts of the world, as appeared by the business of the Ships *Hopewell*, *Leopard*, and other Ships

Ships in the *East-Indies*, and by the business of the *Charles, James, Mary, Sampson, Hopeful Adventurer, Speedwell, &c.* upon the Coast of *Africa*: All which are matters hapned since the *Conclusion* of the said *Treaty*. And after all this, and notwithstanding His *Parliaments* application to Him upon the account of His aggrieved Subjects, in so solemn and extraordinary a manner; His Majesty was yet so far from being inclined to any other then ways of accommodation, as that he did by a publick Writing, or *Declaration* declare, That he would yet try what could be done by amicable endeavours at the *Hague*, before he would make use of any other means; (the which was also very well known to their Lordships) and did thereupon accordingly give orders to his *Envoy Extraordinary* to press them afresh: And further to make out his peaceable and moderate intentions, and to take off all *umbrage* from their Lordships, to let them know, (as accordingly he did in publick Conferences with their Deputies) That His Majesty would not in any kind trouble their Fleets which they then expected from the *Streights*, and *East-Indies*, nor their *Fisberies* upon His Coasts; Yea, further to put them out of all doubt, ordered a far less equipage of Shipping for the *Summer-guard* then had been known these many years; but all this was so far from working the desired and intended effect, as that on the contrary their Lordships betook themselves to Arms in an extraordinary manner, ordering the fitting out with all speed a great Fleet, and *hundreds* of *Carpenters* forth-

with dispatched to work upon it night and day, (holy days as well as working days) ; whereby His Majesty seeing himself wholly defeated of His good intentions, and instead of *satisfaction* for His Subjects, braved and threatned with those *equipages*, which could have no other regard but upon Himself, was at last inforced for His own defense, (though very much contrary to His inclinations and intentions) to arm also.

And whereas it may be pretended, as if their *Lordships* having fitted *Their Fleet*, did desire that His Majesty would be pleased, (for avoyding of all inconveniences) to keep *His Fleet* within His *Harbours*, and that then they would keep in *Theirs* also ; It is to be Considered, that *This Proposition was not made until that they had actually put to Sea, a Fleet near as numerous as the whole that His Majesty was equipping, and which was actually gone towards His Coasts* ; so that this could not but be construed to be rather a *mocquerie*, then otherwise ; for that thereby they had a Fleet at Sea to do what they pleased, and in the mean while His Majesty had tyed His own hands and obliged Himself to keep within doors ; but he was yet pleased to assure them, that His (if it did go out) should not do them the least Injury ; still in the mean while pressing here at the *Hague* by His *Minister* and Himself urging their *Ambassador* at *London*, to hasten the dispatch of the matters in difference ; And as a further testimony of His desires of living in good Correspondence with *This Country*, He did declare His willingness to enter
into

into a *Treaty* for the better regulating of the Trade and Navigation of both, and the prevention of such disorders for the future; and for the quicker dispatch and ripening of so good a work, a project thereof was in His Name tendred to them long ago, and yet to this day not one word of answer thereupon.

And if it be also *true*, (as it is) that their *Lordships* began the *seizing* of Ships in these Parts; stopping the Ship from *Gottenburg* bound for *London*, and though pressed again and again to set her at liberty, yet still retain'd her, and to this day not so much as a word of answer why or upon what account.

These things being so, can there be any doubt who is the *Attacquer* or *Aggressor*, unless it must be held for a *Maxim*, That let their *Lordships* and *Their Subjects* deal with his afore-said Majesty and His Subjects from time to time and from year to year, as they please, yet they are not *Attacquers* or *Aggressors*; but if His Majesty or His Subjects, after never so many years sufferings, and all amicable indeavours first tryed to have obtained their satisfaction, without to this very day having been able to obtain it in any one of those numerous *cases* of *piracy* and *violence* committed by the people of *This Country* against them, whereof complaint hath been made from time to time unto their *Lordships* by His Majesties *Minister*: If after all, any thing be done by them towards the righting of themselves, his Majesty must be called and reputed the *Attacquer* and the *Aggressor*. Let their

their Lordships make out, That the complaints in the said *Memorial* are ungrounded, and His Majesty will yield unto them: but if otherwise, Who will think it strange if at last something be done towards the righting of them.

And as to the *Particulars* mentioned in the said Paper to have been suffered by them from the *English*, though those matters have not been treated of between their Lordships and the said *Envoy Extraordinary*, but between the King his *Master* and their *Ambassador* at *London*, so that it is not properly his business to reply thereunto, but to refer them to that answer which his Majesty hath promised to give concerning the same; yet seeing their Lordships have been pleased not only to mention and insist thereupon in the afore-said paper, but indeed to say nothing else by way of answer to the complaints in his *Memorial*, he cannot but say thus much thereunto.

That the *Places* and *Ships* said to be taken from them, were all belonging to the *West-Indie-Company* of *this Country*; and nothing complain'd of in the paper to have been taken from them belonging to any else of *These Countries*; And when it shall be considered, that in the *LIST* of *Damages* alone, there appears to have been near *twenty English Ships* successively, within a very few years before the conclusion of the late *Treaty*, taken in a hostile manner upon the *Coast* of *Africa*, only by the Shipping of the said *West-Indie-Company*, with their whole Lading, to a very great value; and not onely so, but the men that belonged to them,

' them, very many of them most barbarously and in-
 ' humanly treated ; put into stinking nasty *dungeons*,
 ' and *holes* at *Casteldelmina*, there to lie in the
 ' midst of their own excrements, nothing but bread
 ' and water given them, and thereof not enough to
 ' sustain Nature, their Bodies tortured with
 ' exquisite and horrid tortures ; and when
 ' any of them dyed, the living and the dead left
 ' together, and such as escaped, turned out to perish
 ' by hunger, or wild beasts in those miserable Coun-
 ' tries, or to be carry'd away Captives by the Na-
 ' tives ; by which means, several *hundreds* of his
 ' Majesties good Subjects have perished and been de-
 ' stroyed : And to this hour, notwithstanding all sol-
 ' licitations and endeavours, not one penny of satis-
 ' faction given to the persons concerned in any of
 ' the said Ships ; And ever since the *Conclusion* of the
 ' said *Treaty*, Ships of *Warr* have been kept by the
 ' said *Company* upon the said *Coasts* ; which though
 ' they have not proceeded so far as to take more of
 ' the Shipping of his Majestie's Subjects, yet they
 ' have done that which is equivalent, and as ruinous
 ' to that Trade ; stopping and hindring every one
 ' that they met withall from all Commerce, and to
 ' that effect pursuing them in an hostile manner from
 ' place to place : And where-ever any *English* an-
 ' chored by them, hindring and shooting at, and
 ' taking by force, with their Ladings, all *Boats* of
 ' the *Natives* that indeavoured to come aboard them,
 ' and their *Boats* that would go on shoare ; yea, de-
 ' priving them of so much as any provision or refresh-
 ' ment of fresh water (as appears by the *Complaints*
 ' made

made by the said *Envoy Extraordinary* from time to time to their Lordships concerning the same): And publishing a *Declaration* in the name as well of the *States General*, as of the said *Company*, wherein they deduce their right to that *whole Coast*, to the exclusion of all other Nations; And notwithstanding all *Complaints* to their Lordships, neither the said *Declaration* disavowed, nor any thing of *Satisfaction* given, but still new *Complaints* coming, and among others, that, of their having stirr'd up the King of *Fantine* by rewards and sums of money given him to that end; and supplying him with all sorts of *Armes* and *Amunition* for the surprize of his Majesty's Castle at *Cormantine* in those parts; concerning which also *Proofs* have been since given to their Lordships by the said *Envoy Extraordinary*, so that there was an absolute necessity impos'd upon his Majesty and his Subjects, either of loosing all that had been actually taken from them, and withall abandoning for ever that Trade it self, or otherwise of betaking themselves to some other wayes for their relief. And it will rather be thought strange that their patience did hold out so long, then that now at last something should be done, towards the righting of themselves.

Besides, as to the business of *Capo Corco*, did not the said *Envoy Extraordinary* long agoe complain in the name, and by Order of the King his *Master*, in *Publick Conferences* both with the *Deputies* of their Lordships the *Estates General*, and also with those of *Holland* in particular, of the injurious possessing and keeping of that place by those of the said

said *West-Indie-Company*, deducing and remonstrating at large his Masters Right thereunto, the ground having been bought by *His Subjects*, of the King of *That Country* for a valuable consideration, and a Lodge or *Factory* built thereupon; and those of the *West-Indie-Company* of *this Country* being got into the possession of the place, meerly by *fraud* and *treachery*; but no reflection made thereupon by their *Lordships*, much less any hopes given of ever obtaining any restitution thereof from them. And indeed, if His Majesty had not been able to rescue out of their hands the least Boat, or pennyworth of Goods since His return to His Kingdoms, (concerning which) complaint had been made by His *Envoy Extraordinary*, of its being forceably taken by them from His Subjects,) what hopes of their quitting to him any such place, especially remembering that business of the *Island of Poleroon* in the *East-Indies*, which hath been a restoring by them ever since the year 1622. at which time it was by *solemn* and *particular Treaty* promised to be done; and again, by *another Treaty*, in the year 1654. and by Orders of the *Estates General* and *East-Indie-Company* of this Country, in the year 1661. and again, by *Treaty* in the year 1662. and yet to this day we know nothing of its being delivered; and can it be thought strange, if invited thereunto by the King of the said *Country*, that His Majesty should after so fair warning condescend to suffer His Subjects to endeavour to repossess themselves thereof?

And as to the business of *New-Netherland* (so called) this is very far from being a surprize, or any thing

thing of that nature, it being notoriously known, that *That spot of Land* lyes within the limits, and is part of the possession of His Subjects of *New England*, (as appears most evidently by their *Charter*) and that those few *Dutch* that have lived there, have lived there meerly upon connivence and sufferance, and not as having any right thereunto; and that this hath from time to time, and from year to year been declared unto them, but yet so as that the *English* were contented to suffer them to remain there, provided they would demean themselves peaceably and quietly; but that the said *Dutch*, not contenting themselves therewith, did still endeavour to incroach further and further upon the *English*, imposing their *Laws* and *Customs*, and endeavouring to raise *Contributions* and *Excises* upon them, and in places where no *Dutch* were or had ever been; Whereupon they have formerly been necessitated several times to send Souldiers for the repelling of them.

And as to what is said in the said Paper, as if though the *English* should formerly have had any pretence to the said place, that yet the said pretence is cut off by the fifteenth *Article* of the late *Treaty*; To this he doth Reply, That *That Article* doth only cut off matters of *Pyracies*, *Robberies*, and *Violence*, but as to the *Rights* and *Inheritances* of *Lands* and *Jurisdictions*, that it doth not at all concern or intermeddle with the same. And that this is so, there needs no other Argument but the producing of several *Examples* out of their own *Courts*

Courts of Justice, whereby it will appear that indeed as to the Plundering and Taking of Ships, or the like, that all such cautes (if hapned before the time limited in the said *Treaty*) did cease upon the Conclusion thereof; but as to such as were then depending concerning the *Inheritances of Lands*, that they have still continued to be pursued: As for Example, the Case of Sir *Thomas Lower*, an *English Man*, for certain *Lands* claimed by him in *Zealand*. Besides, those of *New Nether-Lands*, had since the Conclusion of the Late *Treaty*, made new *Inursions* upon the *English*, and given them many new *Pravocations*, and by their *Charters* they have *Jura Belli* within themselves, without *Appealing* first into *Europe*; And if after all this, his *Majesty* hath suffered them according thereunto to rescue themselves from such continued Vexations and Mischiefs; Can Any Prince think it strange, or be surprized thereat, much lesse the most *Christian King*? (For whose Satisfaction this Paper seems to be more particularly Calculated :) Whereas He hath been pleased this very same year, to Order or Suffer (with his Privy) His Subjects to Repossesse themselves in like manner by Force and Armes, of a certain Place called *Cayenne*, which they pretend to have been wrongfully possessed and kept from them by the same *West Indie Company*.

And as to the business of *Cabo Verde*, and the taking of their Ships, and what else is alleadged to have been done in those parts (except that of *Cabo-Corto* :) 'Twas but in the month of *June* last, that the first Complaint was made thereof to his *Majesty*, and did he not immediately return for Answer, That he had

given no Order or Direction to *Captain Holmes*, the Person complained of, for the doing thereof; That he did expect him Home very speedily, and that upon his Return, he would cause those matters to be Examined, and Right to be done them, and the Offenders punished? And did not the said *Envoy Extraordinary* upon the *Twenty Seventh* day of *July* last deliver a *Memoriall* to them to the like Effect? And could more be said or done for their Satisfaction? Yea could their *Lordsships* themselves within their own Countries demand more of any of their *Schenes*, or most *Inferiour Court of Justice*? And doth not the *Fourteenth Article* of the *Late Treaty* say in expresse *Termes*, that *In case any thing should happen upon the Coast of Africa, either by Sea or Land, that Twelve Months time shall be given after Complaint, for the doing of Justice*; Yet did they not within about *Six or Seven weeks* after; Resolve to send a *Considerable Fleet* of *Theirs* into those *Parts*, to the Number of *Ten Men of War* (besides the *Ships* of the said *West-Indie Company*,) under the Command of one *Van Campen*, and strengthened with a *Considerable Body* of their *Milice*, under the Command of one *Hertsberg*? And did they not within about *Six or Seven Weeks* after that; put a *Resolution* into the hands of the said *Envoy Extraordinary* by their *Agent de Heyde*, and about the same time give it to the *King*, his *Master* by their *Ambassadour* at *London*, Denoting and Containing the *Instruction* given to the said *Van Campen*?

And whereas they are pleased to Complement His most *Christian Majesty* in the said Paper, as if upon his score in hopes of the good Effects of his good Offices

for the Accommodating of Matters, and for the making their Cause the more clear, they had hitherto forborn the Proceeding against his *Majesties Subjects* as they might have done : Is it not therein expressly Declared and set Down, that *That Force was not sent thither barely to Defend what they had, and to take Care that nothing more should be Attempted upon them ; but in down right Termes, to Attacque and Fall upon His Majesties Subjects, and to Carve out their own Satisfaction and Reparation ; And to pass by his door's for the doing thereof ?* And that, *Seconded and Backed with another Great Fleet under their Chief Sea Officers ; An Affront and Indignity too great for the Name of King to Suffer, and Digest without Just Resentment.*

And moreover, whereas their *Lordships* had lately invited his Majesty of *Great Britain*, and other *Christian Princes* to send *Fleets* into the *Mid-land-Sea* to Act Joynntly against those *Barbarians* ; And that he did accordingly Declare unto them (in Writing, and by his *Envoy Extraordinary*,) his Intentions of Sending, and that his *Fleet* should Act *Junctis Consiliis* with theirs ; Yet so it is, that while it was Acting there, Pursuant thereunto, and in Expectation of being *Seconded* and *Appuyed* by theirs, according to their Promise, *De Ruyther* was on a suddain Com-manded thence.

And whereas their *Lordships* would make the World believe that they had Proceeded with such Singular and Extraordinary *Franchise*, and *Cleannesse* towards his said Majesty, in Communicating their Intentions and Designs (as abovesaid ;) Yet, *Is it*

not evident that the said Orders must have been given to De Ruyther *much about the same time* ?

And though Sir John Lawson, and his Majesties Fleet hapned to be in the same Port with De Ruyther, when he quitted those Parts ; yet neither did he in the least impart unto him his Intentions of quitting the same, or whither he was going ; and though the King of Great Brittain hath since, several times pressed their Ambassadour at London to be Informed whither he was gone, and upon what account, yet to this day his Majesty hath not been able to obtain any Satisfaction or Assurance concerning that matter ; Whereupon, and all other Circumstances being laid together, He hath Just Reason to suppose and believe, that he is sent, and imployed against Him ; And that while his Majesty was continuing (according to common Consert and Agreement between them,) his Fleet against the Common Enemies of the very Name of CHRISTIAN, and at a season, when it more then ordinarily becomed every one to shew something of their Zeal against them ; Theirs is call'd off and turn'd against him : Nor is it to be imagined that De Ruythers Instructions, which are Concealed, should be more Favourable then those which were Avowed to be given to Van Campen.

And is it then to be wondered, that his Majesty shews himself a little Concerned ? Or is it now to be doubted, who is the Attacquer, or Aggressor ? And if De Ruyther is in one part of the World, making War against him, what is to be said against it, if his Majesty not having at this time in those Parts a suitable Force to Resist him, doth make use of what he hath nearer

nearer home to endeavour to secure himself, or to get something of theirs into his hands? Doth either *Common Right*, or *His Majesties Treaty* with *This Country* oblige to seek Satisfaction only in that part of the World where the Injury is done; and so doth that at all alter the Case, because that their Forces acting against *Him* out of *Europe*, *His* do something against *Them*, in *Europe*?

His Majesty hath been very far from beginning with them in any Part of the World, but if at this time they are Actually with a Considerable *Fleet* of the *Estates* falling upon *Him*, and his *Subjects*; and He hath thereupon given Order to the stopping of some of their Ships in These Parts; Will not all the World Justifie *His Majesty* herein? And when withall, *Themselves* also began the stopping of Ships in These Parts, and that he hath all those reasons of Complaint against them above mentioned.

Given at the Hague, this
16. of December, 1664.

G. Downing.

FINIS.